

Polhill, R.M., Raven, P.H. (Eds.), 1981. *Advances in Legume Systematics 1*. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. ISBN: 0 85521 224 1.

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doi:[10.1016/j.sajb.2007.02.187](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sajb.2007.02.187)

Plant Roots — The Hidden Half — Third edition, revised and expanded, Waisel Y, Eshel A and Kafkafi U (Eds.), Marcel Dekker Inc. New York, 1120 pages, including photographs and chemical structures, hardcover, ISBN 0-8247-0631-5, £149-00. Internet www.taylorandfrancis.com, www.dekker.com

Plant roots or the hidden halves of plants are coming into their own in such fields as molecular biology, secondary product production and inter- and intra-plant communication. This is a lovely and very comprehensive volume. While the Editors are quick to point out that it can not be fully inclusive, I nevertheless compliment them for producing this excellent book. It is in fact up-to-date and covers many more aspects than the ordinary plant scientist would normally consider. The

Editors used the expertise of many authorities in their fields and produced 59 Chapters with little overlap between them. The book gives a truly multidisciplinary view of the field. It is intended to challenge the reader to consider the most pressing problems in root research and to seek solutions for the future.

This Third Edition serves as a major source of information for botanists, plant physiologists, microbiologists, soil and root scientists. The major fields covered are: The origin and characteristics of roots; Structure and Development of the root system; Root genetics; Research techniques for root studies; Regulation of root growth; Physiological aspects of root systems; Root growth under stress; Root rhizosphere interactions; Roots of various ecological groups and Roots of economic importance.

This book is suitable as a reference for lecturers, researchers and students. It is easy to read and is thought provoking. This book should be on the shelves of all teaching and research institution libraries.

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doi:[10.1016/j.sajb.2007.02.188](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sajb.2007.02.188)